

Application No. 09/986,892  
Amdt. Dated June 23, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of March 24, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims

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1. (currently amended) An aqueous antimicrobial composition for disinfecting or sanitizing ~~or cleaning~~ surfaces, comprising:

- (a) about 0.5% to 10% by volume of at least one essential oil exhibiting antimicrobial properties in a water carrier;
- (b) about 2 to 12% by volume of a solvent sufficient to form an aqueous mixture of the essential oils in the water carrier;
- (c) sufficient water to make up 100% by volume; ~~and~~
- (d) about 1 to 1000 ppm of an ion agent for introducing ions into the water, wherein the ions enhance the antimicrobial properties of the at least one essential oil, and wherein the ion agent is selected from a group consisting of copper sulfate, cupric carbonate and colloidal silver; and
- (e) wherein the composition is non-toxic and does not include any antimicrobially effective amounts of peroxygen bleach, hydrogen peroxide, glutaraldehyde or quaternary ammonium.

Claim 2 is cancelled.

Claim 3 (original): The composition defined in claim 1, wherein the ion agent is copper sulfate.

Claim 4 (original) The composition defined in claim 1, comprising about 10 to 100 ppm of the ion agent.

Claim 5. (original) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein the at least one essential oil is selected from the group consisting of thyme oil, lemongrass oil, clove oil and eucalyptus oil, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 6 (original) The composition defined in claim 4, comprising about 2% to 3.25% by volume of the solvent.

Claim 7 (original) The composition defined in claim 4, comprising about 0.05 to 0.50% by volume of a surfactant.

Claim 8 is cancelled.

Claim 9 (original) The composition defined in claim 8, wherein the ion agent is copper sulfate.

Claim 10 (original) The composition defined in claim 1, wherein the at least one essential oil comprises a mixture of essential oils.

Claim 11 (original) The composition defined in claim 10, wherein the mixture of essential oils comprises about 0.07 to 2.5% by volume of thyme oil, and about 0.20 to 2.5% by volume of clove oil.

Claim 12 (previously amended): The composition defined in claim 1, wherein the ions are groundwater ions.

13. (currently amended) The composition in claim ~~13~~ 12, comprising about 10 to 100 ppm of the ion agent.

Claim 14 is cancelled.

Claim 15 (new) The composition of claim 1, wherein the at least one essential oil comprises thyme oil.

Claim 16 (new) The composition of claim 15, where the composition comprises about 0.07 to 2.5% by volume of the thyme oil.

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